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flattering prospect of national honour and interest which it opens. In the Irish ladies I repose, if possible, more than confidence. I know that their honourable pride, and their patriotism, will conspire with their innate generosity in promoting the circumstances, the merits, and the future comfort, of their ingenious and humble, but admirable countrywoman.

To the female nobility and gentry of Ireland, Lady Dufferin has set a noble and praiseworthy example. She has repeatedly purchased yarn, had it manufactured into thread, by Ann herself, and wrought into lace, in the neighbourhood of London. I have in my possession, at this moment, a specimen of the thread manufactured from yarn, of about 70 hanks in the pound, and the lace worked for her Ladyship from it, far superior to any thing of the kind, which ever was seen in this country. Would the other ladies of the land follow her steps in the encouragement of our Irish spinstresses, they would call forth Irish ingenuity, render Irish industry active and comfortable, and, by the splendour of their virtues, add real dignity to their titles.

"Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus."

W. STEEL DICKSON.

Roan, Armagh, Feb. 15, 1809.

☞ *Through an error of the press, in the foregoing article, Ann M'Quillin is stated to be near* 40 *years of age.....she is but about* 25.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

THE following Plan, requiring of government the annual grant of a sum not exceeding £120,000, would establish well conducted schools within a mile of every house, provide for the civil and moral instruction not only of all the poor in Ireland, but also of all the middle classes; impress moral and religious principle upon the public mind, without the slightest encroachment upon the particular tenets of any Church, and thereby increase the public confidence, the peace, and the happiness of all.

ARRANGEMENTS.

I.

That government grant £50, and every parish, at least £12 10 0, to erect four school houses at proper distances from each other in every parish, for the education of all the children, in English, writing, and Christian duty.

II.

That government continue this grant annually, for the education of 40 poor children in every parish, that shall contribute a small annual sum sufficient for repairs, firing, and premiums; and adhere to the underneath Regulations.

III.

That each parish shall, at a vestry meeting, choose six intelligent Laymen, resident in the parish, who, with the Established, Dissenting, and Catholic Clergymen, shall constitute the PAROCHIAL COMMITTEE.

IV.

That the Parochial committee shall superintend the application of the Government grant, and the parish contribution to the erecting, supporting, and endowing said schools;—shall be empowered to choose the free scholars, and in case of gross misconduct, to expell them; to choose the teachers, and in case of neglect or misconduct, to supersede them;—to hold public examinations, at least once in the year, to adjudge premiums to the most deserving, to publish their names, and record them in the vestry-book;—to superintend the establishment, the funds, repairs and orderly arrangements of the schools, and to make a faithful report hereof to the COUNTY VISITORS.

V.

That a visitor of liberal education, and liberal views, be annually appointed to inspect the schools of each county, at a salary proportioned to the number of schools visited. That the visitors for the 12 counties of Leinster be chosen by the Established Clergymen, at their annual visitation, for the 11 Counties of Munster and Connaught, by the Catholic Clergy, at their visitation; and for the nine Counties of Ulster, by the Dissenting Clergy, at the General Synod; that the Visitors be required to visit all the schools annually, to receive the report of the Parochial committees, to see the state of the school-houses, books, accounts, and to apportion the salary to the varying numbers in each school;—to examine the scholars in English, Writing, Accounts and the Christian duties;—to suggest improvements to the Teachers, and make

a report of the Morals and progress of the schools, and of the management of the several committees to the SUPREME COMMITTEE.

VI.

This committee consisting of a Bishop (appointed by the Primate) the Titular Bishop of Armagh, and the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, to meet at Athlone, on the first Tuesday in September, and on the report of the Visitors, to determine what schools have, by the neglect of the masters, or of the Parochial committees, forfeited the current year's endowment, and what schools are, from their pre-eminent attention, entitled to receive the forfeited endowment, in addition to their own?—to ascertain the salary of each visitor, allowing £75. for every 100 schools he has visited, and to direct the government agent, attending this committee, what proportion he is to remit to each visitor, and to the Established Clergyman of each parish, for the endowment of the respective schools;—to report the progress of useful learning to the Public, and the exertions of the several visitors to the Clergy, at their respective annual meetings, and through them to suggest to the several Parochial committees such improvements as from time to time may appear most conducive to the public good.

PARTICULAR REGULATIONS.

I.

Any overplus, arising from school houses having been already built, in proper situations, or from extra contributions, to be applied to the building of two apartments, or to some other permanent accommodations for the teacher.

II.

In order to encourage the establishment, and consequent regularity of four schools in each parish in preference to that of one, two or three, government to grant only £43. per annum, to such parochial committees, as prefer the building and endowing of three school-houses; £36. to such as prefer two; and £30. to such as prefer one; in all cases requiring the parish to contribute for the first year, one fourth of the sum granted by government for building, and every following year, a small sum for repairs, firing and premiums.

III.

The parochial committee to divide the parish endowment so, as to grant to each of the four schoolmasters ten guineas per annum, for educating 10 poor children, with those scholars for whom he is paid by the parents, and £1 2 6, for paper, and for the use of books, provided and lent to them by the master, making up in all, £50. for the four schools.

IV.

That the parochial committee choose only one free scholar out of one family, in the course of 2½ years, the period allowed for the education of each free scholar, unless in case of vacancies;—that they limit the number of free scholars in parishes preferring only one endowed school, to 24*l.* the overplus of the £30. viz. £2 14. to be applied to paper, books, and firing, for said school;—and that they limit the number in each of the four schools, to 36, including the 10 free scholars.

V.

That the parochial committee see, that all the scholars are clean, and regular in their deportment, in their attendance on school, and on public worship;—that the masters punish every breach of truth, honesty, peace and piety with as much strictness, as indolence and inattention;—that the scholars be all instructed in English, Writing, and Accounts, but above all in Christian duty, by reading and explaining every Saturday, such passages only of the New Testament, as regard Christian conduct;—that their respective Pastors follow up these rudiments of Christian morality, by inculcating their own particular modes of faith, and practical duties from the pulpit, and by catechising and admonishing the children of their respective congregations both in public and in private.

VI.

That in the public examinations, all the first classes of the four schools be examined in one class, all the second in another, in order to ascertain, by the premiums, the comparative merit of each school.

VII.

That the visitors be empowered, in the first year's visit, to call a vestry meeting in each parish, to ascertain the number of school-houses required.

REASONS FOR THE ABOVE REGULATIONS.

Ques. Why require a parish contribution to the building, firing, premiums, and repairs of the school-houses, in addition to the Government grants?

Ans. As a small earnest of their wish to establish, increase and render permanent such public schools, intended for the education of all the children in the parish.

2. Why endow four schools partially, instead of one central school exclusively, for the poor?

A. 1st. To establish well conducted schools within a mile of each house.—2d. To bring education to the door of 10 free scholars in each of the *four* quarters, instead of confining it to 24 in *one* quarter of the parish.—3d. These 24, being the greatest number that could be educated for £30. must either occupy the school twice the time necessary for their education, or leave vacancies, not to be filled by the poor of one quarter of the parish; and in either case, the number educated in each parish would, in 20 years, amount only to 96: where as 50*l.* applied as above, would in the same time, educate 320 poor children in each parish, and extend the benefits of education equally to all the poor in Ireland.

2. Why submit the schools to the direction of a parochial committee?

A. That the choosing of the situation for each school-house, the choosing or superseding of the masters, and of the free scholars, the repairing of the school-houses, the orderly arrangements of the schools, the education and morals of the scholars, may be entrusted not to the jarring caprice of the many, but to the discretion of a few judicious and responsible directors.

2. Why are the visitors chosen annually?

A To keep them always on the alert.

2. Why are they not chosen by the government, but by the clergy of the three churches?

A. 1st. Not by the government, because, from their distance, they cannot distinguish individual merit but through the mist of court influence; and because of the popular prejudices against even the appearance of sinecure jobs, and monopoly.—2d. The occurrence of the three churches is required, in order to unite *all* the inhabitants of Ireland, in this grand object, equally interesting to all.—3d. The clergy are the best qualified to choose the most proper visitors, and they are so circumstanced as to know, and check by a new election, any remissness or partiality in the visitors.—4th. The clergy are thereby reminded of their own duty, viz. to follow up the teacher's exertions, by impressing the precepts of morality on the rising generation, at the same time that they are instructing their respective congregations in the peculiar tenets of their own church, and the leading evidences of Christianity.

2. Why subject the schools, the masters, and the parochial committees to the inspection of visitors, and the exertions of all, to the direction of a supreme committee?

A. To prevent a sinecure neglect in the visitors, to prevent indolence in the teachers, and a consequent relapse of the schools into their present state of torpor, by making the honours and emoluments of every year depend on their respective exertions manifested to the supreme committee by the minuteness of their annual reports, and to submit all their exertions to the direction of the Clergy, the natural superintendants of public education, the natural conservators of the public morals.

SIMPLEX.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PROFESSING in your useful publication, "permiscere utile dulci," I conceive the subject of the following paper not altogether foreign to the purpose of your Magazine, as I feel confident that the practice recommended in it, so far from being confined to the faculty, ought rather to be diffused among society in the most plain and public manner.

In your number for January I perceive with pleasure, some important